



# National Brownfields Assessment Pilot

## *Jacksonville, FL*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

**EPA's** Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### OVERVIEW

EPA has selected the City of Jacksonville as a Brownfields Pilot. Historically, Jacksonville's port has served as a major commercial center. Agricultural, petroleum, and paper product industries, in particular, have dominated the commercial market supporting Jacksonville. Commerce that flourished for over a century has subsided, leaving over 100 downtown sites with known or suspected soil and groundwater contamination.

Private and public initiatives have begun to revitalize the area. Initiatives include construction of a new sports complex, increased private sector investments, municipal bond funding used for public improvements, and Port Authority efforts to improve and expand the downtown's port facilities. The city anticipates that EPA's brownfields pilot funding will provide seed money for site assessments and cleanup planning, act as a catalyst for matching funds, motivate partnerships, centralize efforts to address brownfields, and solidify community support.

### OBJECTIVES

Jacksonville's objectives are to establish a redevelopment process with defined policies, procedures, and mechanisms that will restore brownfields sites into economically productive

#### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Jacksonville, Florida*

**Date of Award:**  
April 1997

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Site Profile:** The pilot will focus on contaminated properties that are under-used or vacant within the Talleyrand Redevelopment Area and the adjacent neighborhood of East Jacksonville.

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properties, create new jobs, and increase the quality of life for nearby inner-city neighborhoods. The city anticipates that the pilot will result in a process that can be replicated in other industrial urban core neighborhoods, port cities, and similar waterfront properties.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this pilot include:

- Evaluating environmental justice concerns in the pilot area and implementing community involvement activities;
- Developing an information repository linked to a geographic information system, and publishing a quarterly brownfields redevelopment newsletter;
- Identifying the roles of cooperating agencies and organizations needed for site redevelopment;
- Identifying public and private funding sources for site restoration and attracting potential investors;
- Taking inventory of private water supplies in the pilot area and developing a groundwater model; and
- Developing approaches for conducting brownfields site assessments and cleanups.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.